

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Vander Aa

Art Unit: Unassigned

Application No. Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: December 7, 2001

For: METHOD OF PROCESSING A PRINTING
PLATE MATERIAL WITH A SINGLE-
FLUID INK

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the Examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks:

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert as a title at the top of page 1:

-- METHOD OF PROCESSING A PRINTING PLATE MATERIAL WITH A
SINGLE-FLUID INK--

After the title on page 1, please insert the following paragraph:

--This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No.
60/259,484, filed January 3, 2001, which is incorporated by reference. --

At page 36, line 1, please delete "Claims" and substitute --We Claim: -- therefor.

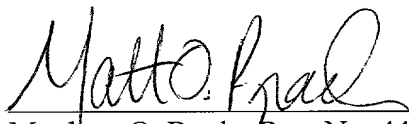
IN THE CLAIMS:

7. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the single-fluid ink is an emulsion comprising a continuous ink phase comprising an acid-functional vinyl resin and a discontinuous polar phase comprising a liquid polyol.

REMARKS

This application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a teleconference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 7, 2001

Certificate of Mailing Under 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment and all accompanying documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" Service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: Dec. 7, 2001 Virginia Schuyler

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PENDING CLAIMS AFTER ENTRY OF PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

1. A method of making a lithographic printing master comprising the steps of
 - providing an imaging material which comprises a lithographic base having a hydrophilic surface and a non-ablative image-recording layer which is removable in a single-fluid ink by exposure to heat or light;
 - image-wise exposing the image-recording layer to heat or light;
 - processing the material by supplying to the image-recording layer a single-fluid ink which is an emulsion of an ink phase and a non-aqueous polar phase.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the image-recording layer is removable with the single-fluid ink before exposure and is rendered less removable after exposure.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the image-recording layer comprises hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles.
4. A method according to claim 2 wherein the image-recording layer comprises an aryldiazosulfonate polymer.

5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the image-recording layer is exposed to UV light.
6. A method according to claim 1 wherein the image-recording layer comprises an infrared light absorbing compound and is exposed to infrared light.
7. A method according to claim 1 wherein the single-fluid ink is an emulsion comprising a continuous ink phase comprising an acid-functional vinyl resin and a discontinuous polar phase comprising a liquid polyol.
8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the vinyl resin is a branched acid-functional vinyl resin.
9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the vinyl resin has a number average molecular weight of between about 1000 and about 15000 and a weight average molecular weight of at least about 100000.
10. A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of image-wise exposing and/or the step of processing are carried out while the imaging material is present in a rotary printing press.

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**AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION, CLAIMS,
AND ABSTRACT MADE VIA PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Amendments to existing claims:

7. (Amended) A method according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the single-fluid ink is an emulsion comprising a continuous ink phase comprising an acid-functional vinyl resin and a discontinuous polar phase comprising a liquid polyol.